Shahnameh

The Persian Book of Kings

ABOLQASEM FERDOWSI

Translated by
Dick Davis

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AUDIOBOOK SUPPLEMENT

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SHAHNAMEH KING LIST

Note: *Figures who did not rule as kings appear in italics.*

MYTHOLOGICAL AGE

PĪSHDĀDIĀN DYNASTY

Kayumars

Siāmak

Hūshang

Tahmuras

Jamshīd

Zahhāk

Feraydūn

Salm — *Tūr* — *Iraj*

Daughter

Manuchehr

Nozar

Tūs

Zav

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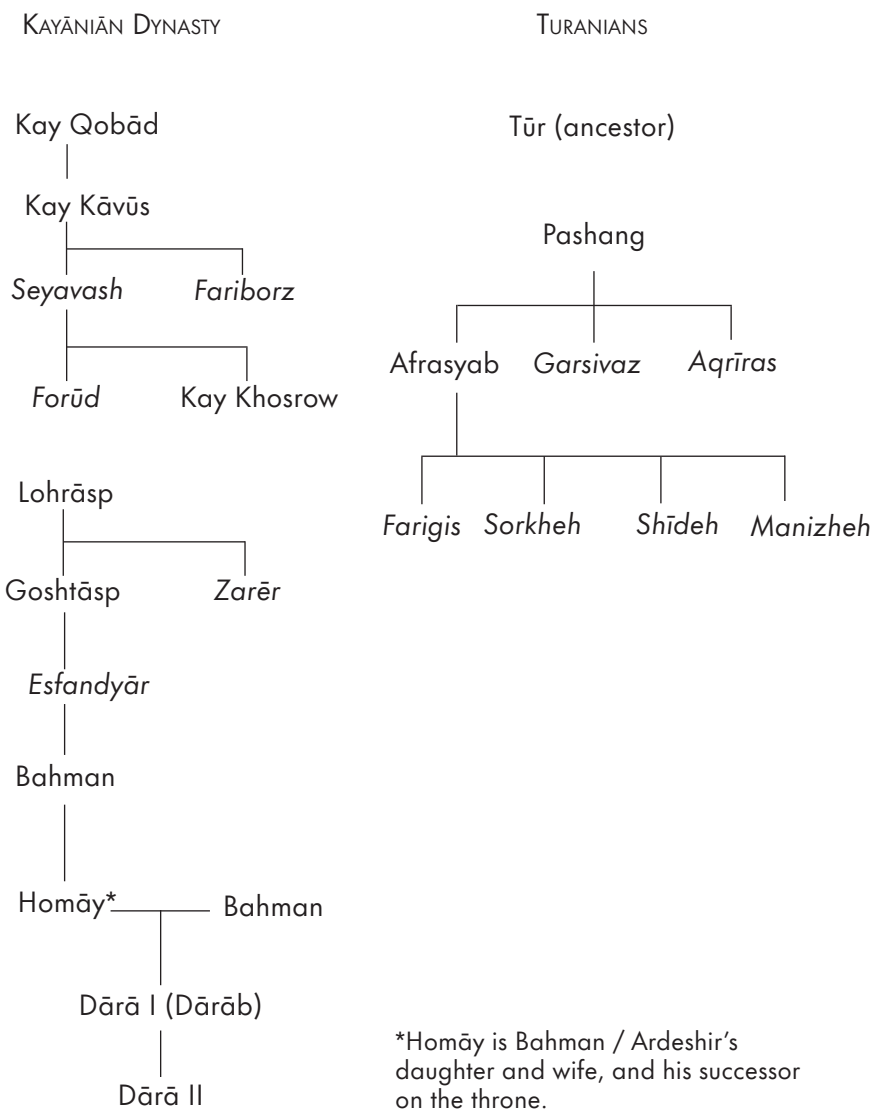
HEROIC AGE



*Homāy is Bahman / Ardeshir's daughter and wife, and his successor on the throne.

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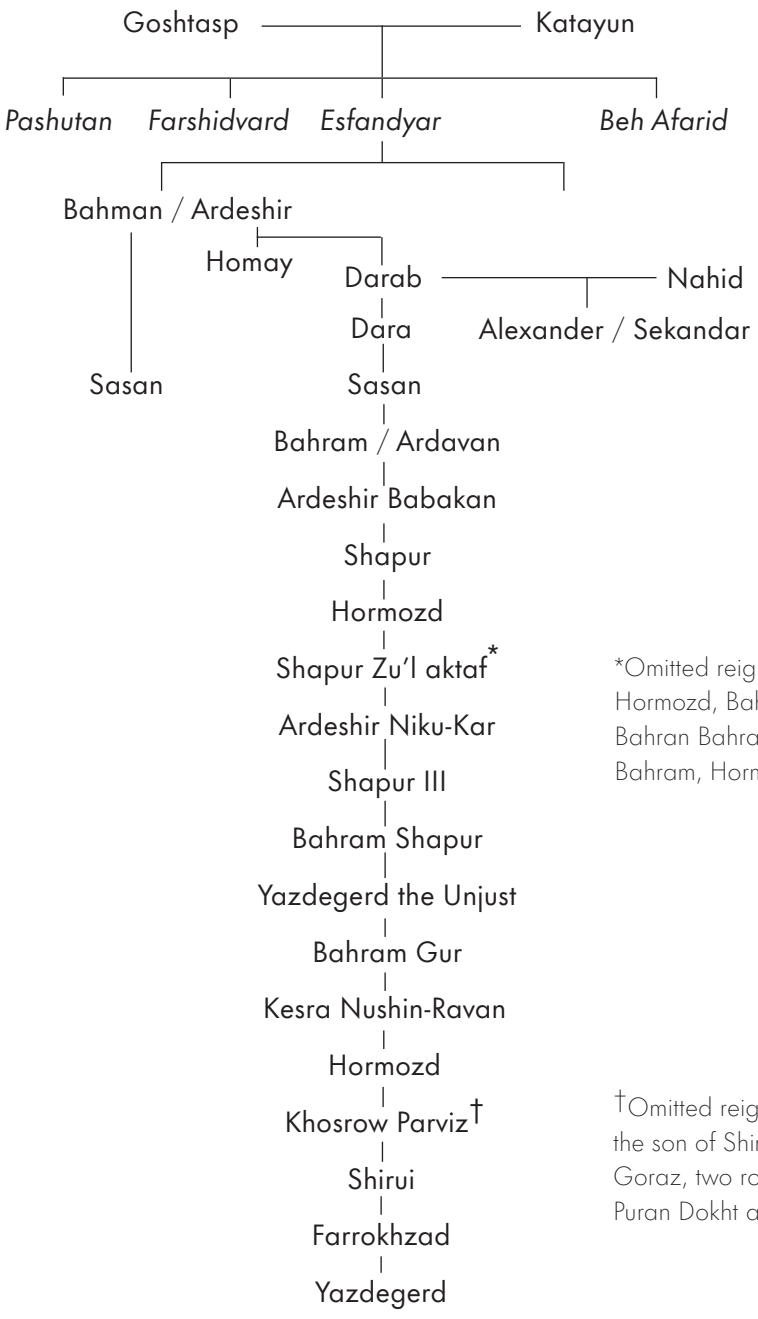
HEROIC/HISTORIC AGE

DYNASTY AFTER GOSHTASP



*Omitted reigns: Bahram Hormozd, Bahram Bahram, Bahran Bahramian, Nersi Bahram, Hormozd Nersi

†Omitted reigns: Ardeshir the son of Shirui, the usurper Goraz, two royal princesses — Puran Dokht and Azarm Dokht

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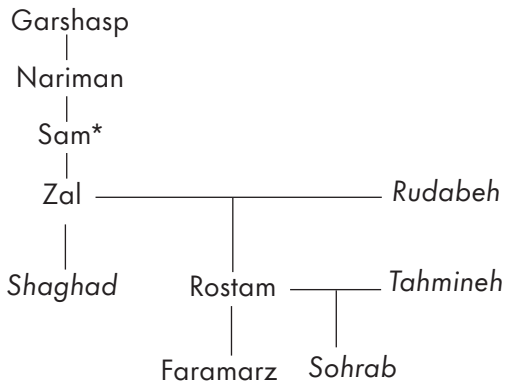
ROSTAM'S FAMILY

ZABOL / SISTAN



*The number of generations between Garshap and Nariman and Nariman and Sam is unclear

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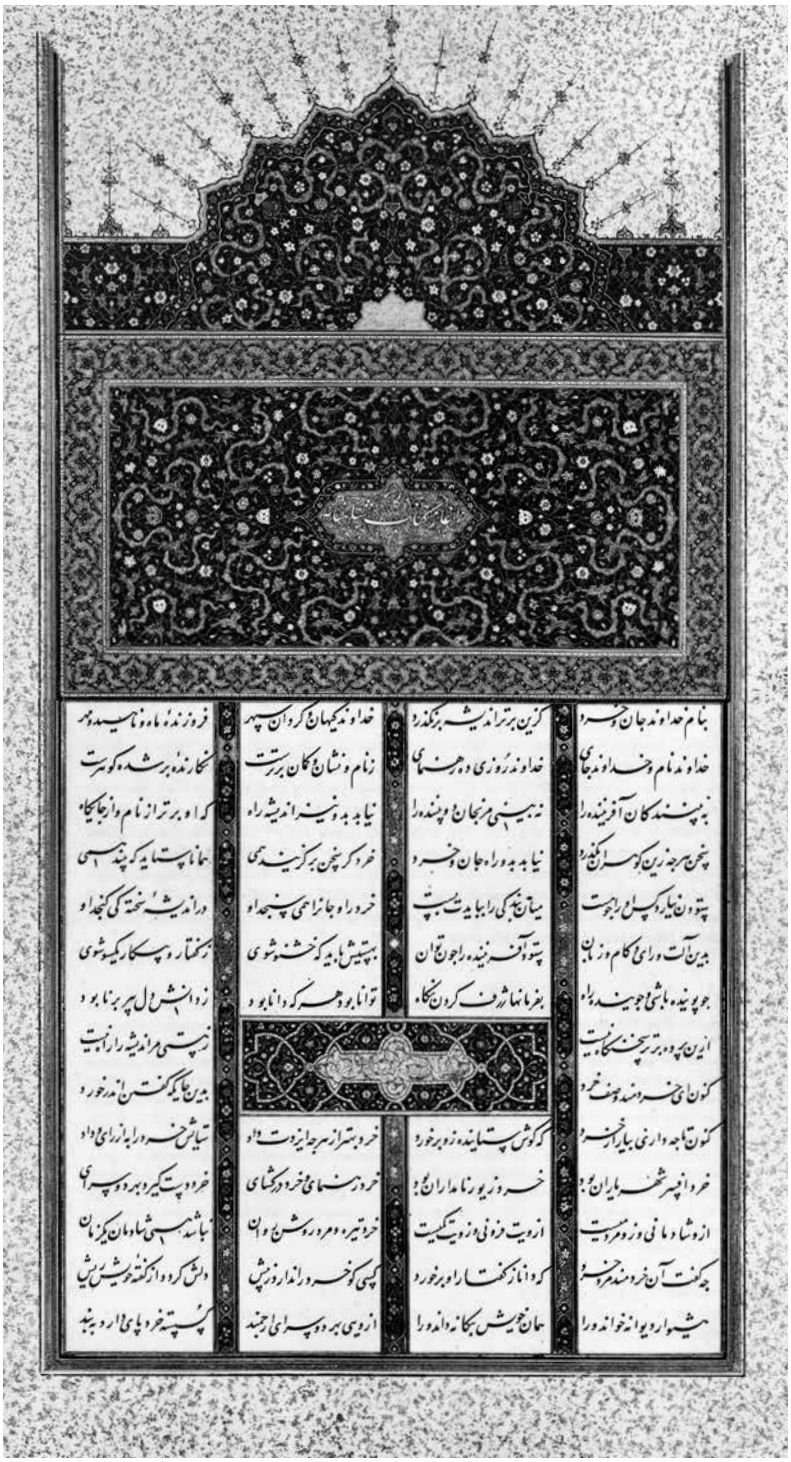

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A NOTE ON THE ILLUSTRATIONS

The immense popularity of the *Shahnameh*'s narratives and characters within Persian culture is indicated by the fact that they have been illustrated in a multitude of ways, from frescoes in palaces to sumptuous miniatures in court-commissioned manuscripts, to large screens painted in a direct and naïve style (somewhat similar to that used by cinema poster artists in the Indian subcontinent), which could be unrolled as a backdrop for a naqqal when he was telling a particular story. The illustrations used for this translation are taken from lithographs for popular nineteenth-century editions of the poem. They bring together traditional Iranian styles and the Western styles of illustration that were beginning to be known in Iran at this time, and in their combination of the homely and the heroic, the familiar and the fabulous, they give us a glimpse of the imaginative ways in which the poem's narratives have flourished within Persian popular culture.

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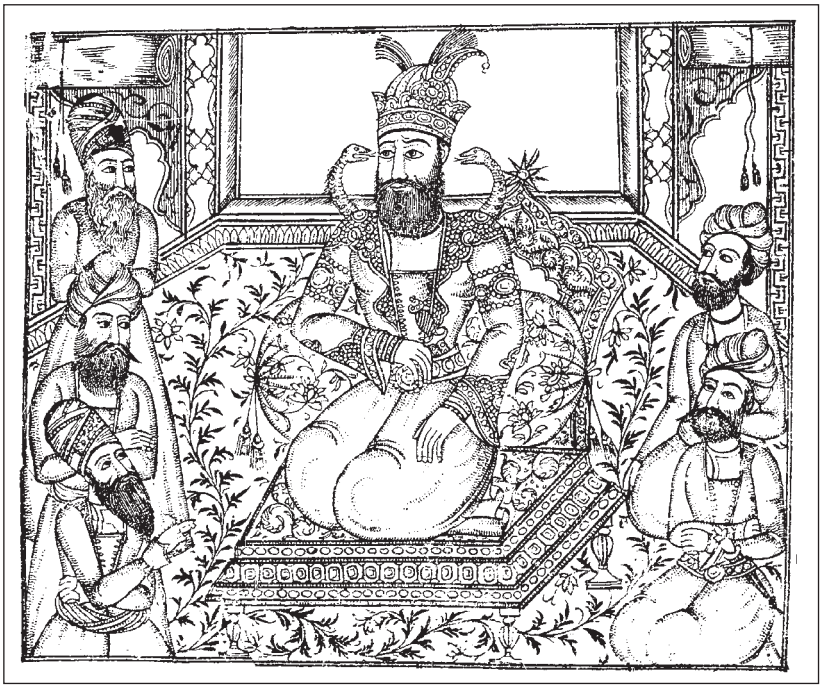
THE DEMON-KING ZAHHAK



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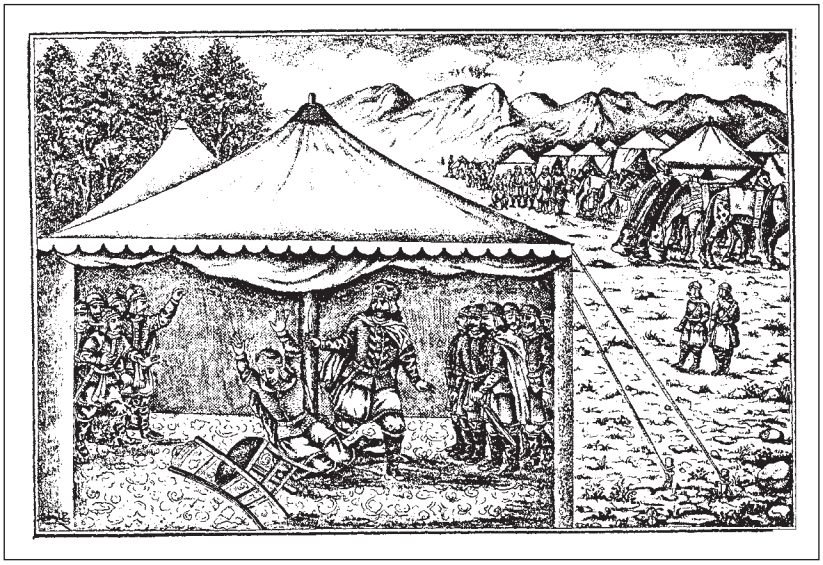
THE STORY OF IRAJ



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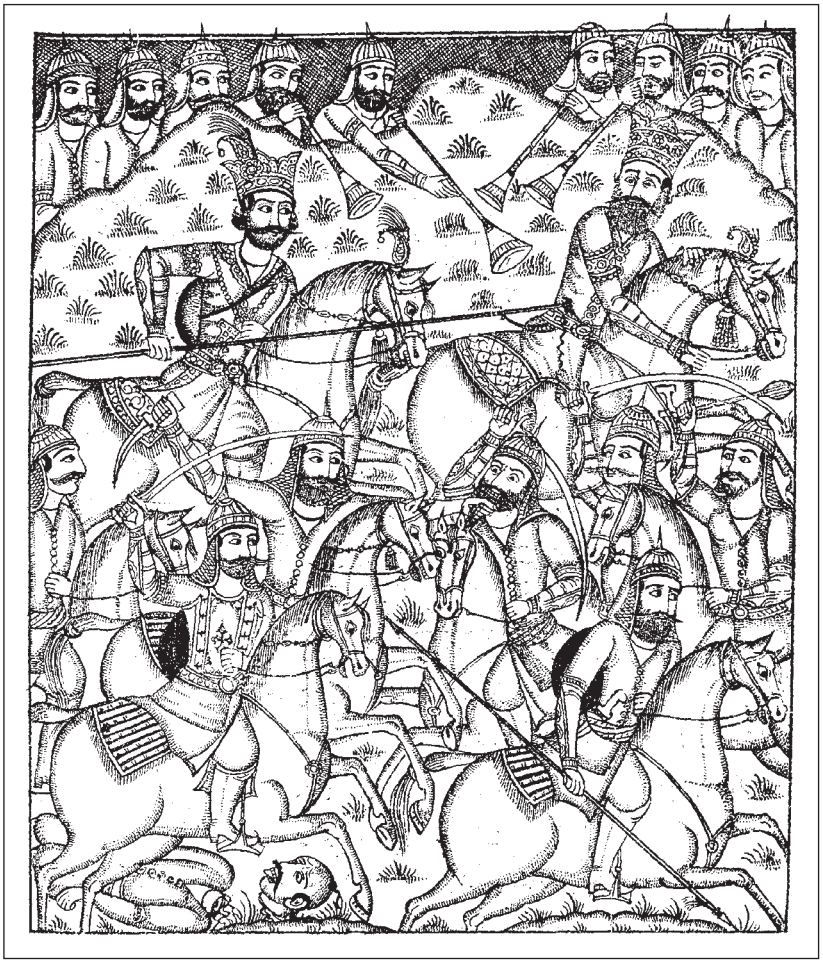
THE VENGEANCE OF MANUCHEHR



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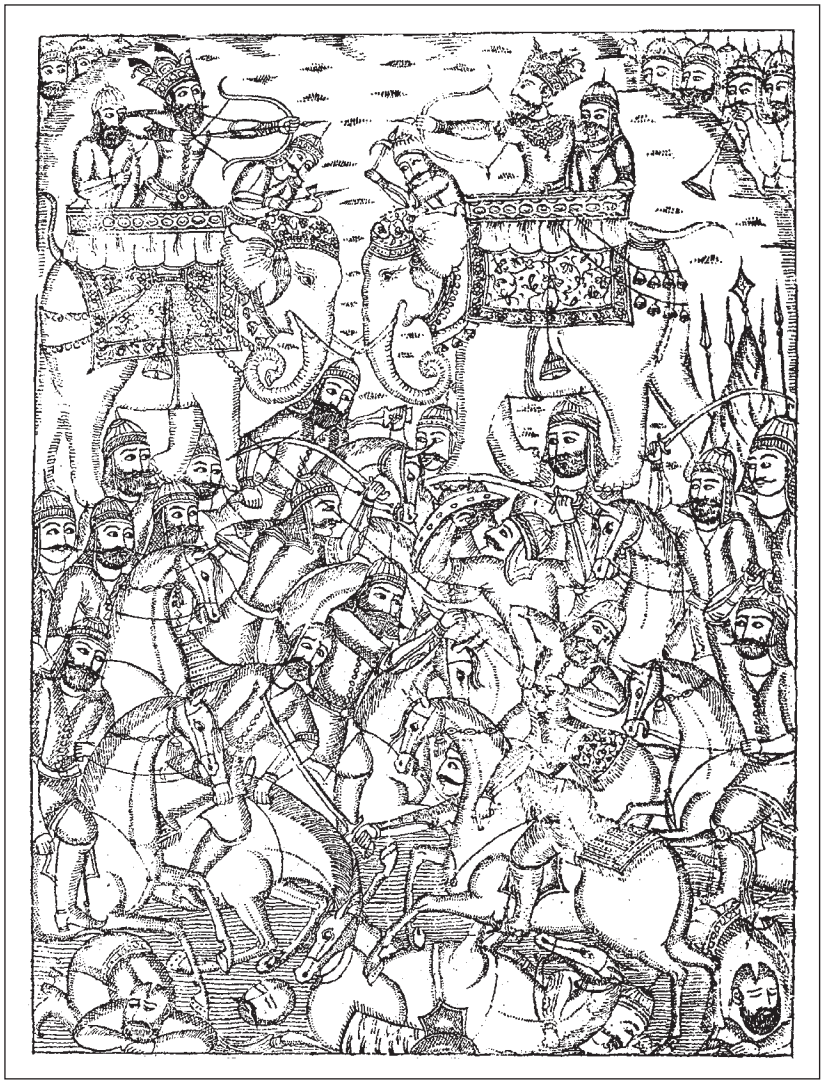
THE BEGINNING OF THE WAR BETWEEN IRAN AND TURAN



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ROSTAM AND KAY QOBAD

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KAY KAVUS'S WAR AGAINST THE DEMONS OF MAZANDERAN

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THE SEVEN TRIALS OF ROSTAM

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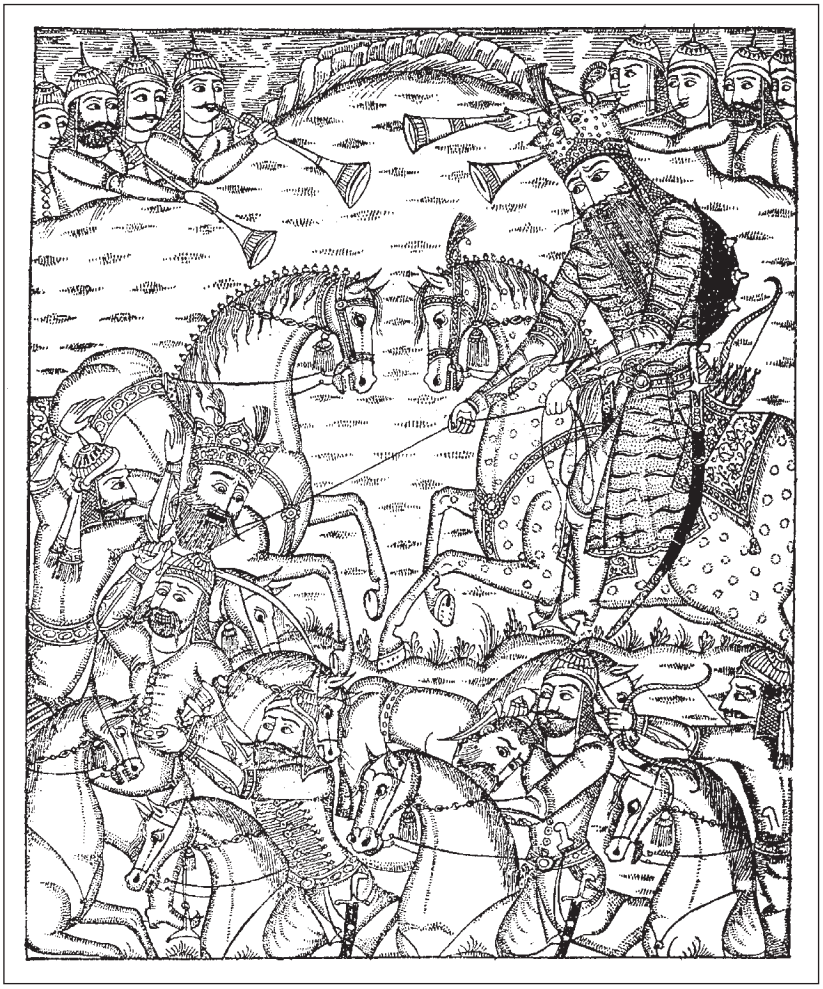
THE KING OF HAMAVERAN AND HIS DAUGHTER SUDABEH



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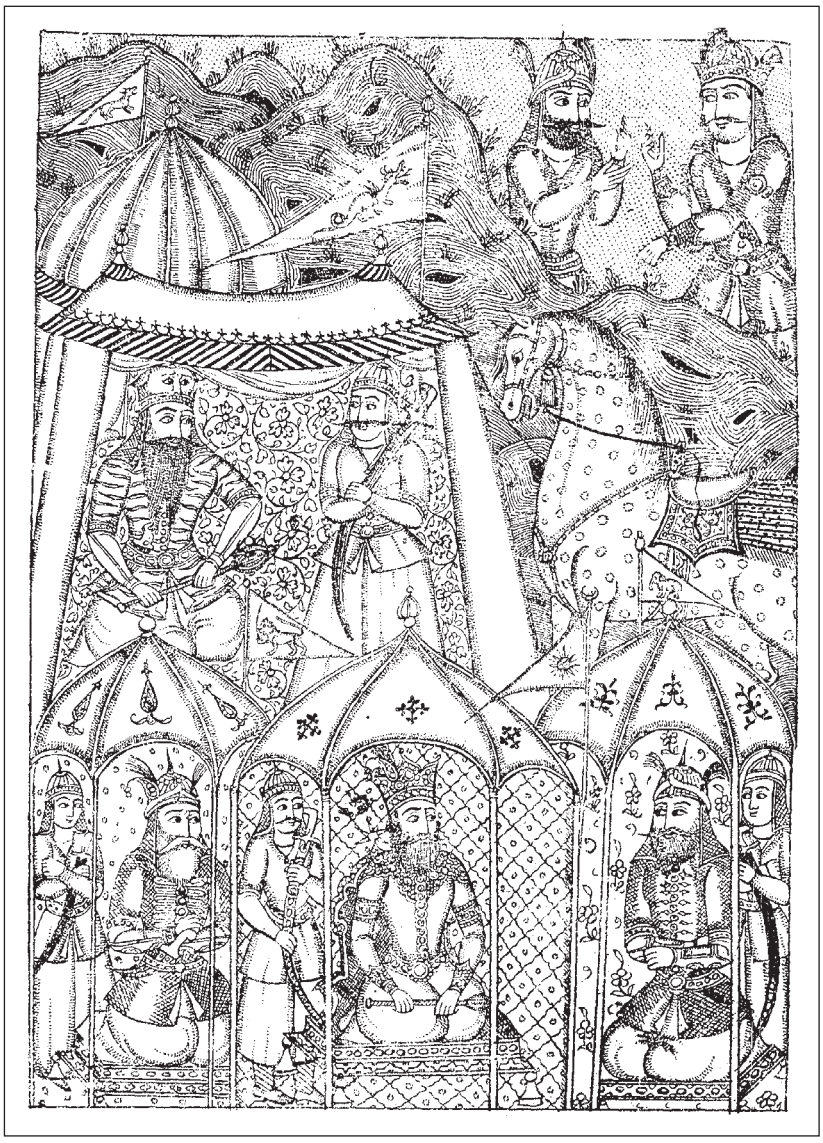
THE TALE OF SOHRAB



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FORUD, THE SON OF SEYAVASH

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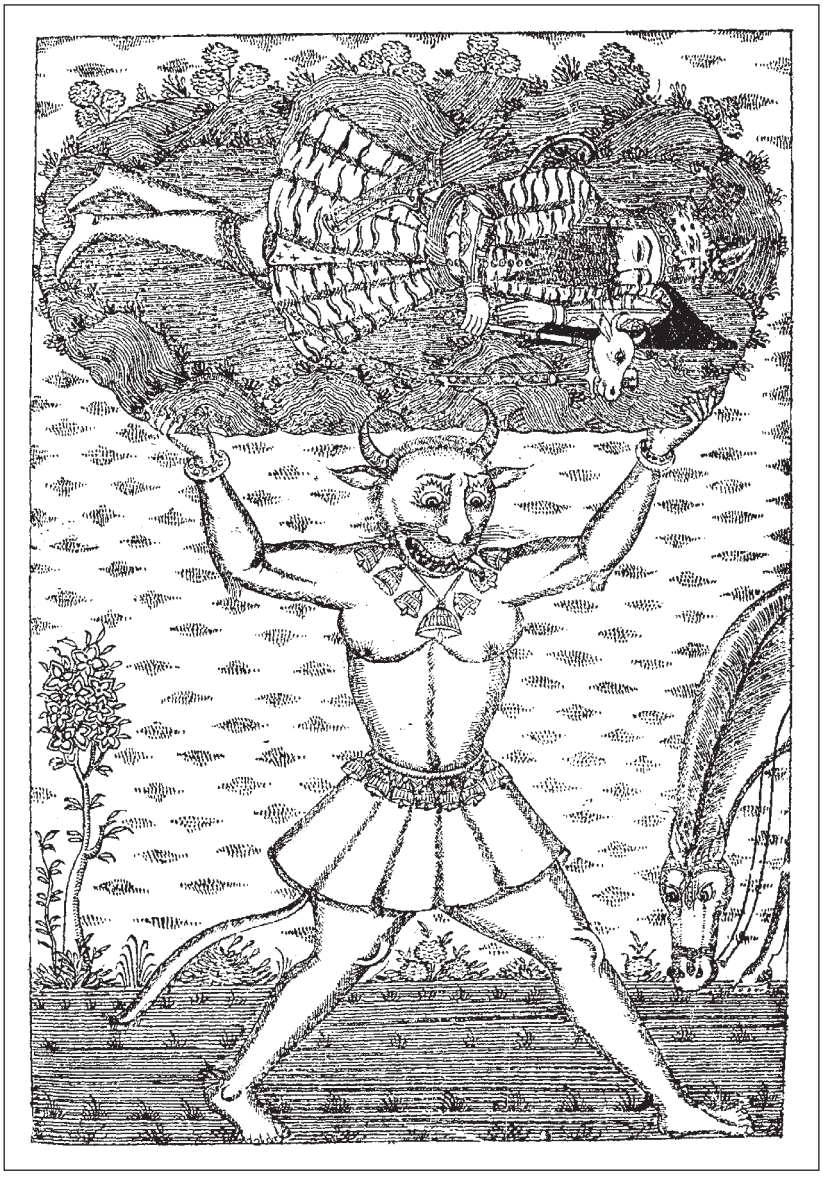
THE AKVAN DIV



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BIZHAN AND MANIZHEH

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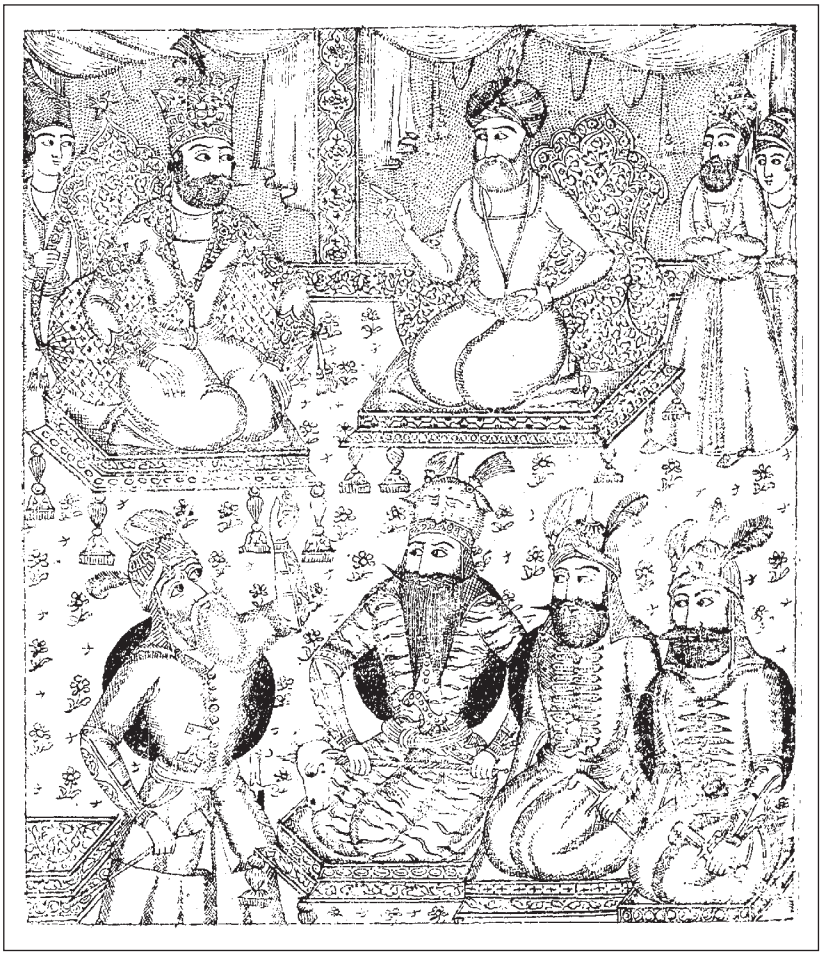
THE OCCULTATION OF KAY KHOSROW



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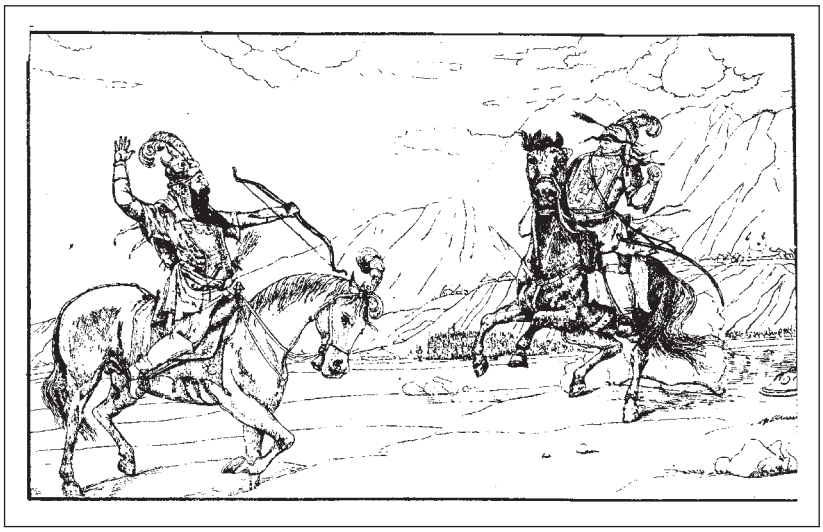
ROSTAM AND ESFANDYAR



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THE REIGN OF SHAPUR ZU'L AKTAF

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THE REIGN OF YAZDEGERD THE UNJUST

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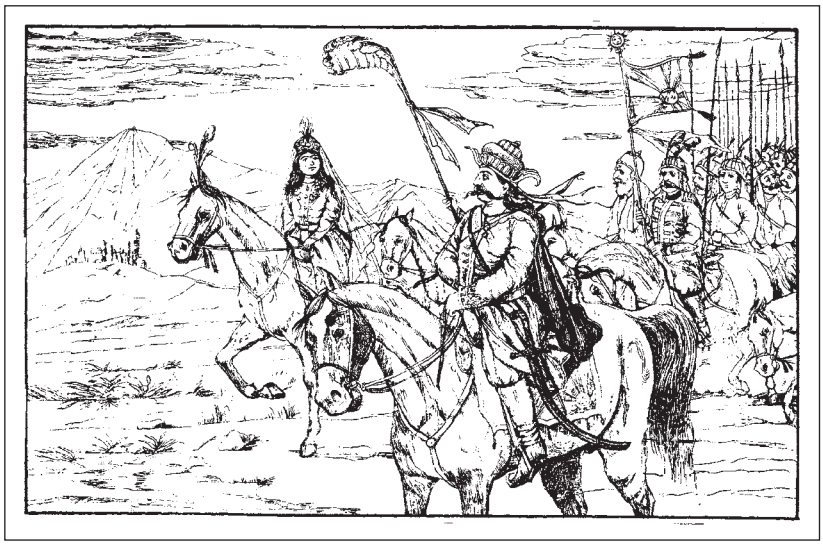
THE REIGN OF BAHRAM GUR



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THE REIGN OF KHOSROW PARVIZ

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THE STORY OF KHOSROW AND SHIRIN

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THE REIGN OF YAZDEGERD

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GLOSSARY OF NAMES

The following is a list of the names in the stories in this book, together with a brief description of who or what they designate.

Persian names are pronounced with a more even stress than is common in English, and to an English speaker's ear this often sounds as if the last syllable is being stressed. A slight extra stress on the last syllable of names will bring the reader closer to a Persian pronunciation.

Persian has two distinct sounds indicated in English by the letter "a." One is a long sound (as in "father") and this has been indicated here by the accent "ā" (e.g., Zāl). The other is a short sound (as in "cat") and this has been indicated by the standard "a" (e.g., Zav). The vowel given as "i" is a long vowel, like the second vowel in "police." The vowel given as "u" is also a long vowel, like the first vowel in "super." "Q" and "gh" are pronounced approximately as a guttural hard "g," far back in the throat. "Zh" is pronounced like the sound represented by the "s" in "pleasure." "Kh" is pronounced like the Scottish "ch" in "loch."

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ABBĀS.....an Arab warrior who attacks Iran during the reign of Hormozd.

ABUL FAZL.....the librarian of the Samanid king Nasr.

ABU BAKR.....the successor of the Prophet Mohammad as the leader of the Moslem community.

AFRĀSYĀB.....a king of Turān, the brother of Aghriras and Garsivaz.

AGHRIRAS.....the brother of Afrāsyāb and Garsivaz.

AHRIMAN.....the evil god of the universe.

AHVĀZ.....a city in southeastern Iran.

AJNĀS.....a warrior of Turān.

AKVĀN DIV.....the name of a demon who tries to kill Rostam.

ALĀNĀN.....a fortress of Turān.

ALĀNS.....a tribe living near the Caspian Sea.

ALBORZ.....the mountains to the south of the Caspian Sea. The word "borz" simply means "high (ground)," and in some of the *Shahnameh*'s early stories the mountains referred to seem to be the Himalayas rather than the mountains now called the Alborz.

ALI DAYLAMI.....a man who supported Ferdowsi during his writing of the Shahnameh.

ALTOUYANEH.....the site of a major Sasanian victory over the Romans. It seems likely that the victory referred to is the one that took place near Edessa in 259 C.E., when the Roman emperor Valerian was captured by Shāpur I.

ALVĀD.....a warrior from Sistān.

ĀMOL.....a town near the Caspian.

AMOURIEH.....the area between the River Jordan and the Mediterranean.

AMUI.....a plain to the north of the River Oxus.

ANDARIMĀN.....a warrior from Turān.

ANDIĀN.....an Armenian chieftain.

ARASH.....an Ashkāniān (Parthian) king.

ARD.....the twenty-fifth day of every month in the Zoroastrian calendar.

ARDAVĀN.....the last Ashkāniān king, defeated by Ardeshir.

ARDEBIL.....a town in northwestern Iran.

ARDESHIR.....another name for Esfandyār's son, Bahman. Also Ardeshir, the brother of King Shāpur Z'ul Aktāf, who acts as regent on the death of Shāpur.

ARDESHIR BĀBAKĀN.....the founder of the Sāsānīān dynasty.

ARESTĀLIS.....Aristotle.

ĀREZU.....the bride of Salm.

ARJĀSP.....a king of Turān.

ARMANI.....a Persian warrior.

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ARMENIA .....the country of the Armenians to the northwest of Iran.

ASHKĀSH .....a Persian warrior.

ARNAVĀZ.....the sister of Jamshid.

ARVAND .....the name of a river.

ARZHANG.....a demon of Māzanderān.

ASHK.....the name of the founder of the Ashkāniān dynasty.

ASHKĀNIĀN.....the Parthians; the dynasty that ruled Iran from 247 B.C.E. to 224 C.E., i.e. from the defeat of the Seleucid heirs of Alexander until the advent of the Sāsāniāns.

ASPORUZ.....a mountain in Māzanderān.

ĀTEBIN .....the father of Feraydun.

AVESTĀ.....see Zend-Avestā.

AYIN-GOSHASP.....a scribe at the court of Hormozd.

AZĀDEH.....a slave belonging to Bahrām Gur.

AZĀD-SARV .....Nushin-Ravān's envoy, who discovers Bozorjmehr.

AZAR.....the ninth solar month, and the ninth day of any month, in the Zoroastrian year.

AZAR-GOSHASP.....the name of a fire-temple in Balkh. Also of a companion of Bahrām Chubineh.

AZARM-DOKHT .....a Sāsāniān queen who reigned for four months. The sister of Purān-Dokht.

AZARMEGAN.....the father of Farrokhzad, the chamberlain of Khosrow Parviz.

AZAR-PANĀH .....apparently the name of a fire-temple, but unattested outside of the Shahnameh. According to some mss. the name of a scribe at the court of Nushin-Ravan.

BĀBAK .....a ruler of Estakhr; the maternal grandfather of Ardeshir.

BADAKHSHĀN.....an area in the northeast of Afghanistan, famous for its remoteness and its rubies.

BĀDĀN-PIRUZ .....a supporter of Khosrow Parviz when he is out of favor with his father Hormozd.

BĀDĀVAR.....a royal treasury. The name means literally "windfall."

BAHMAN.....Esfandyār's son, and Sāsān's and Homay's father. Also the name of an angel.

BAHMAN.....a son of Ardavān, the last Ashkāniān king.

BAHMAN.....a courtier of Khosrow Parviz.

BAHMAN.....a winter month, and the second day of every month, in the Zoroastrian calendar.

BAHRĀM .....a warrior of Irān.

BAHRĀM .....also called Ardavān: the last Ashkāniān king. A descendant of Seyāvash; a cavalry commander under Bahrām Chubineh. Also the name of the twentieth day of each of the Zoroastrian months.

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BAHRĀM BAHRĀM.....a minor Sāsāniān king.

BAHRĀM BAHRĀMIĀN .....a minor Sāsāniān king.

BAHRĀM CHUBINEH.....a champion in the service of Hormozd and Khosrow Parviz. He rebels against his monarchs and attempts to seize the throne for himself.

BAHRĀM GUR .....a Sāsāniān king: the son of Yazdegerd the Unjust.

BAHRĀM HORMOZD .....a minor Sāsāniān king.

BAHRĀM PIRUZ.....a nobleman in the service of Bahrām Gur.

BAHRĀM SHĀPUR.....a minor Sāsāniān king.

BAHRĀM AZAR-MAHĀN.....an advisor at the courts of Kesrā Nushin-Ravān and Hormozd.

BALĀSH.....a minor Sasanian king.

BALKH.....a town in northern Afghānistān.

BALUCHISTAN .....a province covering modern south eastern Irān and eastern Pakistan.

BĀMYĀN.....a valley in northern Afghanistan.

BANDUY .....a maternal uncle of King Khosrow Parviz. Also an advisor to Nushin-Ravān.

BARAK .....the name of a river and a town in northeastern Afghanistan.

BARĀNUSH.....A Roman commander captured by Shāpur I. Also a Roman emperor contemporary with Shāpur Z'ul Aktāf. The historical origin of both figures is probably the emperor Valerian captured by Shāpur I in 259 C.E.

BĀRBAD.....a musician who serves King Khosrow Parviz.

BARDA'.....a town in Azerbaijan.

BARKEH-YE ARDESHIR .....a town founded by Ardeshir.

BĀRMĀN .....two warriors of Turan go by this name; one is a son of Viseh and is killed by Qāren, the other accompanies Sohrāb on his expedition against Irān.

BARMĀYEH.....the ox that nourishes the young Feraydun. Also a brother of Feraydun.

BARSĀM.....the son of Bizhan, the governor of Samarqand during the reign of Yazdegerd III.

BARSOM.....sacred rods used in Zoroastrian ceremonies.

BARZIN.....a warrior of Irān.

BEDĀL .....a warrior chieftain from Khazar.

BEH ĀFARID.....a daughter of Goshtasp, and sister to Esfandyar, Pashutan, and Homay.

BEHZĀD.....the name of Seyavash's horse.

BEHZĀD.....the father of Mehr-Piruz, a warrior of Bahrām Gur. Also an advisor to Kesrā Nushin-Ravān.

BESTĀM .....a town in northern Iran.

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BISITUN .....a mountain in south east Irān, about thirty miles from the city of Kermanshah. In medieval Persian verse the name is sometimes used simply to mean any large mountain.

BID .....a demon of Māzanderān.

BITQUN .....a vizier of Sekandar. When Sekandar visits Queen Qaydāfeh, he pretends to be Bitqun.

BIVARD.....a contender for the crown, after the death of Yazdegerd the Unjust.

BIZHAN .....a Persian hero, the son of Giv.

BOKHĀRĀ.....a city in Transoxiana.

BORZIN.....the name of a priest of Zoroaster who built the fire-temple named after him.

BORZUI.....a doctor who brings the book Kalileh and Demneh from India. Also the name assumed by Bahrām Gur when he visits India in disguise.

BOST .....an area to the east of Sistān; lying between Persia and India.

BOZORJMEHR .....meaning "Great Light." The vizier of Kesrā Nushin-Ravān. The modern form of the name is Bozarjomehr.

CHĀCH .....a city in Turkestan famous for the bows made there. Chachi is its adjectival form.

CHĀJ .....a town near Birjand in eastern Iran.

CHORASMIA .....the area to the south of the Aral Sea.

CTESIPHON .....the Sâsâniân capital, on the River Tigris.

DĀGHUI.....this area, which must lie somewhere between Persia and Turān, has not been further identified.

DAMĀVAND .....an extinct volcanic peak; the highest mountain in Irān.

DAMUR.....a warrior of Turān.

DĀRĀ.....the son of King Dārāb, defeated by Sekandar.

DĀRĀB.....the son of Bahman and Homāy. The father of Dārā and Sekandar.

DARI .....a name for the Persian language of eastern Iran and Afghanistan.

DASTĀN.....another name given to Zāl, the son of Sām and father of Rostam.

DAYLAM .....a city in Gilān, to the south of the Caspian Sea.

DEHESTĀN.....an area to the east of the Caspian.

DELAFRUZ.....the name of a thorn-cutter encountered by Bahrām Gur.

DELAFRUZ-E FARROKHPAY.....a servant girl who helps Shāpur escape from captivity in Rome.

DELĀRĀY .....the wife of Dārā and mother of Roshanak.

DEZHKHIM.....a warrior of Māzanderān.

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DILMĀN .....a province south of the Caspian.

EBLIS .....the devil.

ERMĀN .....Ermāni, an area to the north west of Irān, identified with present day Armenia.

ESDRAS .....identified with the Hebrew prophet Ezra.

ESFAHAN.....a city in central Iran.

ESFANDYĀR.....a Persian prince: the son of Goshtāsp, and father of Bahman.

ESMAIL .....a son of Abraham, whose descendants claimed the right to rule in the Yemen at the time of Sekandar.

ESRĀFIL.....the angel of death.

ESTAKHR.....a city in central Iran.

EUPHRATES .....one of the major rivers of Mesopotamia. For many years the de facto border between the Sāsāniān and the Roman empires.

FARĀB.....a town on the River Oxus.

FARĀMARZ .....Rostam's son.

FARĀNAK .....the mother of Feraydun.

FARĀYIN .....a supporter of Kesrā Nushin-Ravān against Mazdak.

FARHĀD .....a warrior of Irān.

FARIBORZ.....a Persian prince, the son of Kay Kāvus.

FARIGIS.....the daughter of Afrāsyāb and bride of Seyāvash.

FARROKHZĀD .....the brother of Rostam the son of Hormozd (who leads Yazdegerd III's armies against the Arab invaders).

FARROKHZĀD .....the chamberlain of Khosrow Parviz. This is apparently a different Farrokhzād from the man who reigned briefly after the death of Queen āzarm-Dokht.

FARSHIDVARD .....a warrior of Turān, and an associate of Piran.

FARSHIDVARD .....a miserly landowner, encountered by Bahrām Gur.

FARYĀN .....an Arab king who reigns on the borders of the lands ruled by Queen Qaydāfeh.

FARVARDIN .....the first month of the Persian year, which begins at the spring equinox in late March.

FERAYDUN .....a Persian king.

FILQUS.....Philip of Macedon, the father of Nāhid, and grandfather of Sekandar (Alexander the Great).

FOOR.....an Indian prince who fights against Sekandar.

FORUD.....Seyavash's son.

GALINUSH.....Khosrow Parviz's jailer, after he is imprisoned by his son.

GANG .....the land ruled over by Afrasyab in Turan, north of the River Oxus.

GANG DEZH .....Afrasyab's capital city.

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GARSETUN.....an ally of Māhuy, the warlord who reigns briefly after the murder of Yazdegerd III.

GARSHĀSB.....a Persian king, Zav's son; the Persian army commander of the same name seems to be a different person and the father of Nariman is yet another bearer of the same name.

GARSIVAZ.....a warrior of Turān, the brother of Afrāsyāb and Aghriras.

GAZHDAHAM.....a warrior of Irān, the father of Gordāfarid.

GERDUI.....a counselor to Khosrow Parviz. Brother of Gordyeh and Bahrām Chubineh.

GHASSĀNID.....an Arab tribe.

GHUR.....the area north of Kandahār, in Afghanistan.

GILĀN.....a province to the south of the Caspian Sea.

GIV.....a warrior of Irān, the son of Gudarz.

GOLBĀD.....a warrior of Turān.

GOLNĀR.....Ardavān's treasurer and Ardeshir's lover.

GOLSHAHR.....the wife of Piran, Afrāsyāb's counselor.

GONBADĀN.....a castle in Khorasan.

GORAZEH.....a Persian nobleman.

GORĀZ.....a warrior of Irān.

GORĀZM.....Goshtasp's son and Esfandyâr's brother, he slanders Esfandyār out of jealousy.

GORDĀFARID.....a female warrior of Irān.

GORDYEH.....the sister of Bahrām Chubineh and of Gerdui. She is briefly the wife of Gostahm, whom she murders, and then of Khosrow Parviz.

GORGĀN.....an area to the east of the Caspian.

GORGIN.....a warrior of Irān.

GORGSARĀN.....an unidentified area in Turān. There is a village of this name near Balkh, but this is too deep in Persian territory to be Bizhan's place of imprisonment. The word means "wolf-headed."

GORUI.....a warrior of Turān.

GOSHTĀSP.....a Persian king, the son of Lohrāsp.

GOSTAHAM.....a warrior of Irān.

GOSTAHM.....a maternal uncle of Khosrow Parviz and a major participant in the struggles for the throne during Khosrow's and his father Hormozd's reigns. Also the name of a Persian warrior during the reigns of Yazdegerd the Unjust and Bahrām Gur.

GOSTAHOM.....a Persian prince, the son of Nozar.

GUDARZ.....a warrior of Irân, the father of Giv, the son of Keshvād.

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GURĀBĀD.....an unidentified town or village near the border of Sistān and Irān. There are villages in modern Irān that have this name, but none of them are near Sistān.

HABASH.....the name given collectively to the tribes of Africa.

HAFTVĀD.....the father of the girl who finds the "Worm" of Kerman; he rebels against the Sāsāniān king Ardeshir.

HAMĀVAN.....a mountain in Khorāsān.

HĀMĀVERĀN.....Sudābeh's country of origin, usually identified with the Yemen.

HAMDĀN-GOSHASP.....a Persian commander under Bahrām Chubineh.

HAMEDĀN.....a city in western Iran.

HAMZEH.....an Arab warrior who attacks Iran during the reign of Hormozd.

HARUM.....a town inhabited entirely by women, visited by Sekandar.

HEJĀZ.....Western Arabia.

HEJIR.....a warrior of Irān.

HEJIRA.....the flight of the prophet Mohammad from Mecca to Medina in 622 C.E., which marks the beginning of the Moslem calendar.

HEND.....India.

HERĀT.....a town in western Afghānistān.

HIRBAD.....the keeper of King Kavus's harem.

HIRMAND.....a river that marks one boundary of Zābolestān; its modern name is the River Helmand.

HOMĀ.....a mythical bird, said to bestow sovereignty on whomever its shadow touches.

HOMĀY.....daughter of Goshtāsp, sister to Esfandyār, Pashutan, and Beh Āfarid. Also, the name of Bahman's daughter.

HORMOZD.....the good god of the universe.

HORMOZD.....a Sāsāniān king; the son of Nushin-Ravān and the father of Khosrow Parviz. A name for Āhura Mazdā, the good principle of the universe. An advisor to Nushin-Ravān.

HOSAYN QOTAYB.....a man who supported Ferdowsi during his writing of the Shahnameh.

HOSHYĀR.....a Persian astrologer.

HUMĀN.....a warrior of Turān.

HUSHANG.....a Persian king, the grandson of Kayumars.

IRAJ.....the youngest son of Feraydun.

ESFAHÂN.....one of the chief cities in central Irān.

IZAD-GOSHASP.....a councilor of Nushin-Ravān, put to death by Hormozd. Also an army commander under Bahrām Chubineh.

JAHAN.....a son of Afrāsyāb.

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JAHROM.....a town in southern Iran.

JĀMĀSP.....vizier to the legendary kings Lohrāsp and Goshtasp.

JAMSHID.....a Persian king.

JANDAL.....King Feraydun's councillor.

JĀNFOROUZ.....a warrior in Bahrām Chubineh's army.

JĀNUSHYĀR.....an advisor to King Dārā, whom he kills.

JARAM.....an area near Badakhshān.

JARIREH.....Pirān's daughter; Forud's mother.

JAVĀNUI.....a priest sent as an envoy by the Persian nobility to Monzer, the guardian of the young Bahrām Gur.

JAZA'.....a tyrannical ruler of the Hejāz.

JEDDAH.....a coastal town in the Hejāz.

JEZ.....Mesopotamia.

JONDESHĀPUR.....a city in western Iran.

JORM.....a magical site, from which a voice speaks to the mourners of Sekandar.

JUYĀ.....a warrior of Māzanderān.

KA'ABEH.....the central Moslem shrine, in Mecca.

KĀBOL, KĀBOLESTĀN.....eastern Afghānistān and its chief city.

KAJĀRĀN.....a town near the Persian Gulf, in southeastern Iran.

KĀKUI.....a champion of Turān.

KALĀT.....the town in Turān where Forud and his mother live.

KALBUI.....an ally of Rostam (the son of Hormozd) at the battle of Qādesiya.

KALILEH AND DEMNEH.....the name of a book of advice cast in the form of animal fables.

KAMUS.....a western ally of Afrāsyāb, killed by Rostam.

KANĀRANG.....a demon of Māzanderān.

KARIMĀN.....an ancestor of Nariman, and therefore of the family of Zal and Rostam.

KARZEBĀN.....a town in Khorāsān.

KARUKHĀN.....a warrior of Turān.

KATAYUN.....a Byzantine princess who marries Goshtāsp; the mother of Esfandyār.

KAVARESTĀN.....the area of Transoxiana.

KĀVEH.....a blacksmith who leads the insurrection against the demon-king Zahhāk.

KĀVIĀNI.....an adjective from Kāveh, applied particularly to the banner made from Kāveh's leather apron.

KAY ÂRASH.....a Persian prince, son of Kay Qobād.

KAY ĀRMIN.....a Persian prince, son of Kay Qobād.

KAY KĀVUS.....a Persian king, son of Kay Qobād.

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KAY PASHIN.....a Persian prince, son of Kay Qobād.

KAY QOBĀD.....a Persian king.

KAYĀNID.....the name of the Persian royal house.

KAYD.....an Indian king.

KAYUMARS.....the first Persian king.

KAZHDAHOM.....a Persian nobleman.

KEBRUI.....a village headman who becomes drunk at the court of Bahrām Gur.

KENĀM-E ASIRĀN.....a city built in the reign of Shāpur as a home for Roman prisoners.

KERKH.....a town in Mesopotamia.

KESHMIHAN.....a city near Marv, in Transoxiana.

KESHVĀD.....Gudarz's father; the tribe to which Gudarz belonged.

KESRĀ.....see Nushin-Ravān.

KHANJAST.....a supporter of Khosrow Parviz when he is out of favor with his father Hormozd.

KESHVĀD.....a warrior of Irān, the father of Gudarz.

KHALLOKHI.....a town in Turkestan famous for its musk, and for the beauty of its inhabitants.

KHĀQĀN.....the title of the emperor of China.

KHARRĀD.....a Persian chieftain at Kay Khosrow's court.

KHARRAD.....the warrior who captures Ardavān when he is defeated by Ardeshir.

KHATLĀN.....the area around Samarqand.

KHAZAR.....an area of Turkestān.

KHAZARVAN.....a warrior of Turān.

KHAZRAVĀN.....a chieftain who fights in the armies of Bahrām Gur.

KHERRĀD.....a warrior of Irān.

KHEZR.....a Qur'anic (and probably pre-Qur'anic) figure; in medieval legend the guardian of the waters of immortality.

KHORAD-BORZIN.....a confidant of Hormozd. Also, the name of a fire temple.

KHORASAN.....A province including modern Khorasān, in north eastern Irān, but also the area to the north and south of the Oxus.

KHORDĀD.....a Zoroastrian angel.

KHORDĀD.....a supporter of Nushin-Ravān against Mazdak. The name of the third month and the sixth day of every month in the Zoroastrian calendar.

KHORRAMĀBĀĀD.....a city built by Shāpur, in western Iran.

KHOSROW.....Seyāvash's and Farigis's son. A Persian king.

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KHOSROW.....a claimant to the Persian throne after the death of Yazdegerd the Unjust. The name of the miller who kills Yazdegerd III. Also a legendary king.

KHOSROW PARVIZ.....a Persian king, the son of Hormozd, father of Shirui, husband of Mariam and Shirin.

KHOTAN.....northeastern central Asia.

KHURREH-YE ARDESHIR.....a town in Pars, built by King Ardeshir.

KHUZESTĀN.....the southeastern province of Iran.

KIĀNUSH.....a brother of Feraydun.

KOHANDEZH.....a number of sites in Iran and Transoxiana bear this name, which means "ancient fortress." It is unclear which of them is meant in Ferdowsi's text.

KOLĀHVAR.....a warrior of Māzanderān.

KONDROW.....Zahhāk's treasurer.

KUFAH.....a city in southern Iraq.

KULĀD GHANDI.....a demon of Māzanderān.

KUT.....a Byzantine warrior.

KUCH.....the name of a tribe and of an area in south eastern Irān, near Kermān.

LAHĀK.....Pirān's brother.

LOHRĀSP.....a Persian warrior who is chosen by Khosrow to succeed him as king. The father of Goshtāsp.

MĀH.....the bride of Tur.

MĀH-ĀFARID.....the wife of Iraj.

MĀHAZĀR.....a counselor to Nushin-Ravān.

MĀHUY.....the governor of Khorāsān in the time of Yazdegerd III; after Yazdegerd's death he proclaims himself king.

MĀHYĀR.....a Zoroastrian priest who is one of the two murderers of King Dārā. Also a jeweler whose daughter ārezu marries Bahrām Gur.

MAJUJ.....see Yajuj and Majuj.

MAKRĀN.....southern Afghānistān and the south of what is now Pakistan.

MALEKEH.....the daughter of the Persian princess Nobahār and her Arab abductor Tāyer.

MĀMUN.....an Abbasid caliph (reigned 813 C.E. to 833 C.E.).

MANDAL.....an Indian king.

MĀNI.....a prophet and painter who appeared in the reign of Shāpur.

MANIZHEH.....a Princess of Turān. Afrasyāb's daughter.

MANUCHEHR.....a Persian king, the grandson of Iraj.

MARDĀNSHĀH.....one of Shirin's sons.

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MARDUY.....a gardener who befriends the musician Bārbad.

MARGH.....a town in northwestern India.

MARIAM.....a daughter of the emperor of Byzantium; a wife of Khosrow Parviz; the mother of Shirui.

MARV.....a city in northern Khorāsān.

MARVRUD.....a town in Khorāsān, halfway between Balkh and Marv.

MAYAM.....an indefinite area to the east and north of Irān.

MĀZANDERĀN.....modern Māzanderān is the area to the south of the Caspian Sea. Various locations for Ferdowsi's Māzanderān have been suggested.

MAYSĀN.....a city in Mesopotamia founded by Ardeshir.

MAZDAK.....a prophet and social reformer who appeared in the reign of King Qobād, and was opposed by Qobād's son Kesrā Nushin-Ravān.

MEHRĀB.....the king of Kābol, Rudābeh's father.

MEHRBANDĀD.....a farmer encountered by Bahrām Gur while Bahrām is out hunting.

MEHR-AZĀD.....an advisor to Nushin-Ravan.

MEHRAK.....a rebel who looted King Ardeshir's palace while the king was fighting against Haftvād of Kerman.

MEHRĀN-SETĀD.....an envoy sent by Nushin-Ravān to China.

MEHR-BORZIN.....a warrior during the reign of Bahrām Gur.

MEHR-HORMOZD.....the murderer of Khosrow Parviz.

MEHREGĀN.....a festival celebrating the autumnal equinox.

MEHRNUSH.....one of Esfandyār's sons.

MERDĀS.....the father of Zahhāk.

MERUI.....an ally of Rostam (the son of Hormozd) at the battle of Qādesiya.

MILĀD.....a warrior of Irān.

MILĀD.....a city in western India.

MONZER.....an Arab prince who brings up Bahrām Gur.

MOSHK.....one of four sisters, all musicians, whom Bahrām Gur incorporates into his harem.

MORDĀD.....a Zoroastrian angel.

NĀHID.....the daughter of Filqus, wife of Dārāb, and mother of Sekandar.

NAHRAVĀN.....a city in Mesopotamia; also a river of undetermined location (the word ravan means "flowing," nahr "channel").

NĀRVAN.....a forested area near the Caspian Sea.

NASIBIN.....a town in Mesopotamia, known for its monasteries and Christian population.

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NASR .....an Arab chieftain of the Hejāz, befriended by Sekandar; also a Sāmānid king.

NARIMĀN.....the founder of the royal house of Sistān, to which belong Sām, Zāl, and Rostam.

NASTIHAN.....a warrior of Turān.

NASTUD.....one of the sons of Shirin.

NASTUH.....a servant to King Hormozd.

NAYSHĀPUR .....a town in northeastern Iran.

NĀZ.....one of four sisters, all musicians, whom Bahrām Gur incorporates into his harem.

NERSI .....a Sāsāniān king (Nersi Bahman), the father of the princess Nobahār. Also, the brother of Bahrām Gur, who acts as regent in Bahrām's absence.

NIĀTUS.....the brother of the emperor of Byzantine; he is put in charge of the troops the emperor lends to Khosrow Parviz.

NIMRUZ.....the ancestral homeland of Sām, Zāl, and Rostam; also called Zābol, Zābolestān, Zāvol, Zāvolestān, and Sistān.

NISĀ.....a town founded by the Parthians, about halfway between the Caspian Sea and Marv.

NOBAHĀR .....the daughter of King Nersi; she is abducted by the Arab chieftain Tāyer and gives birth to a daughter, Malekeh.

NO'MAN .....the son of Monzer, Bahrām Gur's Arab guardian.

NOSHĀD .....a city built by Dārā.

NOZAR.....the son of Manuchehr, the king of Irān.

NUSHĀZAR.....one of Esfandyār's sons.

NUSHIN-RAVĀN.....also called Kesrā; a Sāsāniān king, the son of King Qobad and father of King Hormozd. The modern form of his name, which means "eternal soul," is Anushirvān.

NUSHZĀD.....Nushin-Ravān's son, by the daughter of the Roman emperor, who adopts his mother's faith (Christianity) and rebels against his father. Also, the father of Mehrak, a rebel against Ardeshir.

OMAR, IBN AL-KHATTĀB.....the second of the caliphs who succeeded the prophet Mohammad; in his reign Iran was invaded by the Arab armies bringing the new religion of Islam.

ORANDSHĀH .....an ancestor of Lohrāsp.

ORDIBEHESHT.....a Zoroastrian angel.

OXUS.....the river that traditionally marked the boundary between Iran and central Asia.

PAHLAVI .....the form of Persian spoken before the Arab conquest in the seventh century C.E.

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PĀRS.....a province in central southern Irān, and the homeland of the country's two most important pre-Islamic dynasties, the Achaemenids and the Sasanians.

PARMOUDEH.....the son of Sāveh Shāh, leader of the central Asian Turks and the emperor of China.

PARTHIAN.....see Ashkāniān.

PASHIN.....the son of the legendary king Kay Qobad, and the ancestor of Khosrow, who is placed on the throne by the Persian nobility after the death of Yazdegerd the Unjust.

PAYDĀ-GOSHASP.....a warrior chieftain and companion of Bahrām Chubineh.

PIRUZ.....the envoy of Rostam (the son of Hormozd), to the Arab armies. Also, a Persian noble who opposes the accession of Bahrām Gur to the throne. Also, a minor Sāsānian king.

PIRUZ-SHIR.....a warrior who reproaches Nushzād when he rebels against his father, King Nushin-Ravān.

PULĀD.....a warrior of Iran.

PURĀN-DOKHT.....a Sāsānian queen.

QĀDESIYA.....the site of a decisive battle between the Sasanian and Arab armies, in 637 C.E.

QAHTĀB.....an Arab conqueror of the Hejāz.

QALUN.....a Turk who is suborned by Khorad Borzin to kill Bahrām Chubineh.

QANUJ.....a city in northern India.

QĀREN.....a number of warriors are called this; it was the name of one of the chief families of Sāsānian Iran.

QAYDĀFEH.....the Queen of Andalusia during the time of Sekandar. Also the name of a Roman province.

QAYDRUS.....a son of Queen Qaydāfeh.

QAYSIĀN.....an Arab tribe.

QAYTUN.....the king of Egypt during the time of Sekandar.

QEISAR-NAVĀN.....a border area between Roman and Persian territory.

QOBĀD.....Another name for Shirui, the son of Khosrow Parviz. Also Kay Qobād, a legendary Persian king. Also a Sasanian king, the father of Nushin-Ravān.

QUR'ĀN.....the holy book of Islam.

QOTAYB.....an Arab tribe. Also the father of Nasr, a chieftain befriended by Sekandar.

RĀM-BORZIN.....a confidant of Kesra Nushin-Ravān and the commander of his armies during Nushzad's rebellion.

RESHNAVĀD.....a Persian general during the reign of Homāy.

REY.....a city in northern central Iran, to the south of modern Tehran.

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ROSHANAK.....the daughter of Dārā and wife of Sekandar.

ROSTAM.....the preeminent hero of the epic; the son of Zāl and Rudābeh and father of Sohrāb.

ROSTAM, SON OF HORMOZD..the commander of the Persian armies under Yazdegerd III.

RUDĀBEH.....a princess of Kābol; Zāl's wife and Rostam's mother.

RUM.....the West.

RUMI.....of the West.

PASHANG.....two men bear this name; one is a king of Turān, and the father of Afrāsyāb, the other is a Persian, the nephew of Feraydun and the father of Manuchehr.

PASHUTAN.....Goshtasp's son, and Esfandyār's brother.

PILSOM.....Pirān's brother.

PIRĀN.....a nobleman of Turān; counselor to Afrāsyāb.

PULĀD.....a warrior of Irān.

QAJQAR.....a town in Turān.

QALUN.....a warrior of Turān.

QANNUJ.....a town in northern India.

QARĀ KHĀN.....an advisor to Afrāsyāb.

QĀREN.....a Persian army commander, also called Qāren-e Kāvus.

QOBĀD.....two men bear this name; one is a Persian warrior, the other a Persian king.

QOM.....a city in central Irān.

RAKHSH.....Rostam's horse.

RUDAKI.....the tenth-century Persian poet who versified Kalileh and Demneh.

RUZBEH.....a priest and counselor to Bahrām Gur.

SABĀK.....the ruler of Jahrom who joins Ardeshir, the founder of the Sāsāniān dynasty, against the remnants of Ashkāniān power.

SA'D, THE SON OF VAQĀS.....the commander of the Arab armies that invaded Iran during the reign of Yazdegerd III.

SADEH.....a festival commemorating the discovery of fire.

SAHI.....the bride of Iraj.

SALM.....Feraydun's eldest son.

SĀM.....the father of Zāl.

SAMANGĀN.....a border town, between Irān and Turān.

SAMARQAND.....a city in Transoxiana.

SANGLAKH, PLAIN OF.....a mythical area, "sanglakh" means "stony."

SANJEH.....a demon of Māzanderān.

SĀRI.....a town to the southeast of the Caspian.

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SARKESH .....a musician at the court of Khosrow Parviz.

SARUCH .....a plain near Kermān, in south eastern Irān.

SĀSĀN.....a Persian prince who flees to India and lives there as a shepherd; the ancestor of Ardeshir, the founder of the Sāsāniān dynasty. In the story of Bahman and Homāy, he is Bahman's son; in the story of Dārā, he is Dārā's son.

SĀSĀNIAN .....the dynasty that ruled Iran from 224 C.E. to 642 C.E.

SĀVEH SHĀH .....a central Asian Turkish leader, also referred to as the emperor of China, who attacks Iran during the reign of King Hormozd.

SAVORG .....Sekandar's regent in India.

SEKANDAR .....Alexander the Great. The Arabic version of his name was (Al-) Eskandar; Sekandar is Ferdowsi's usual adaptation of this.

SEND .....approximately modern Pakistan; the sea adjacent to it.

SEPANDORMOZ .....the twelfth month of the Zoroastrian calendar.

SEPAHRAM .....a warrior chieftain of Turān.

SEPANDARMEZ.....a Zoroastrian angel.

SEPANJĀB.....an area in Turkestan.

SEPED .....an unidentified mountain in Turān.

SEPINOUD .....an Indian princess who marries Bahrām Gur; the daughter of King Shangal.

SERGIUS .....a Byzantine warrior.

SEYĀVASH .....son of Kay Kāvus and father of Kay Khosrow and Forud.

SEYĀVASHGERD .....the city Seyavash founds in Turān.

SHABDIZ .....a horse belonging to Bahrām Gur. Also a horse belonging to Khosrow Parviz.

SHABRANG .....Bizhan's horse (the name means "Color of Night").

SHABRANG .....a horse belonging to Bahrām Gur.

SHĀDEGĀN .....the garden where Khosrow Parviz's wife, Shirin, answers Shirui's accusations against her.

SHAGHĀD.....Rostam's brother.

SHAHD.....an unidentified place, and body of water, in eastern Iran.

SHĀHEH .....a mythical city in Hāmāverān.

SHAHRIVAR .....a Zoroastrian angel.

SHAHRNAVĀZ .....a sister of Jamshid.

SHAHRGIR .....a warrior who captures Qaydrus, one of the sons of Qaydafeh, the queen of Andalusia. Also a commander in Ardeshir's army.

SHAHRYĀR .....one of the sons of Shirin.

SHĀHUY.....the son of Haftvād, a warlord who rebels against Ardeshir.

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SHAMĀSĀS.....a warrior of Turān.

SUS.....Susa, in south western Irān.

SHANGAL .....the king of India during the reign of Bahrām Gur.

SHĀPUR .....a warrior of Irān.

SHĀPUR .....the name of a number of Sāsāniān kings, the most significant of whom are Shāpur I, the son of Ardeshir, and Shāpur Z'ul-Aktāf.

SHĀPURGERD.....a city built by King Shāpur I to accommodate Roman prisoners.

SHAVRAN.....a Persian warrior, the father of Zangeh.

SHAYBĀN.....an Arab tribe.

SHEGNĀN.....a contender for the Persian throne after the death of Yazdegerd the Unjust.

SHEMĀS .....a Christian general who helps Nushzād in his rebellion against his father, King Nushin-Ravān.

SHEMIRĀN.....a maternal ancestor of Bahrām Gur.

SHEMR.....a warrior whom Bahrām Gur places on the throne of Turān.

SHIDĀSB.....the chief minister of King Tahmures.

SHIDEH.....a son of Afrasyāb.

SHIDUSH.....a Persian warrior.

SHIRKHUN .....a warrior from Sistān.

SHIRĀN.....a supporter of Khosrow Parviz when he is out of favor with his father, Hormozd.

SHIRĀZ .....a city in southern Iran.

SHIRIN.....a wife of Khosrow Parviz.

SHIRUI.....a warrior of Turān.

SHIRUI.....the son of Mariam and Khosrow Parviz; he reigns as king for seven months.

SHIR-ZIL .....a supporter of Khosrow Parviz when he is out of favor with his father, Hormozd.

SHO'AYB.....an Arab chieftain defeated by Dārāb.

SHO'BEH MOGHAIREH .....the Arab envoy to Rostam, the son of Hormozd.

SHURESTĀN.....an area near the lands of the Arab king Monzer; the name means "place of bitterness" and is used to refer to a salt desert.

SHUSHTAR.....a city in southeastern Iran.

SIĀMAK.....the son of King Kayumars.

SIMĀ-BORZIN .....an advisor of Nushin-Ravān, killed by Nushin-Ravān's son Hormozd.

SIMORGH .....the fabulous bird which rears Zāl.

SIND.....north western India.

SINDOKHT .....the wife of Mehrāb and the mother of Rudābeh.

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SISANAK .....one of four sisters, all musicians, whom Bahrām Gur incorporates into his harem.

SISTĀN.....a province of southeastern Iran and southern Afghanistan, lying largely to the east of the modern Persian province of the same name. Also the ancestral homeland of Sām, Zāl, and Rostam; also called Zābol, Zābolestān, Zāvol, Zāvolestān, and Nimruz.

SOGHDIA .....Transoxiana generally, and in particular the area around Samarkand.

SOHRĀB .....the son of Rostam.

SORUSH .....a Zoroastrian angel. Also, an Indian astrologer. Also, the seventeenth day of every Zoroastrian month.

SUDĀBEH .....the daughter of the king of Hāmāverān.

SU.....a legendary fountain where it is prophesied that Yazdegerd the Unjust will die.

SURI.....the father of Māhuy (the governor of Khorāsān) during the reign of Yazdegerd III.

SUSANAK .....one of four sisters, all musicians, whom Bahrām Gur incorporates into his harem.

TABARISTĀN.....the area to the south of the Caspian Sea.

TAHMINEH.....the daughter of the king of Samangān; Sohrāb's mother.

TAHMURES.....a Persian king, the son of Hushang known as the Binder of Demons.

TALIMĀN .....a warrior of Irān.

TĀLQĀN.....a town in Transoxiana.

TARĀZ .....a town in Transoxiana.

TARKHĀN.....an area in Transoxiana.

TĀYER .....an Arab chieftain who attacks Ctesiphon at the beginning of the reign of Shāpur Zu'l-Aktāf and abducts the princess Nobahār.

TAYNUSH.....a son of Qaydāfeh, queen of Andalusia. Also, a Roman envoy to the court of Yazdegerd the Unjust.

TERMEZ .....a town in Transoxiana.

TIGRIS .....the river forming the eastern boundary of Mesopotamia.

TOCHVAR.....a warrior of Turān; advisor to Forud.

TOKHVĀR.....a member of the conspiracy to place Shirui on the throne in place of his father Khosrow Parviz.

TOVORG.....a brother of the emperor of China, who tries to detain Gordyeh after her bother Bahrām Chubineh is murdered. Gordyeh kills him.

TUR.....Feraydun's second son.

TURĀN.....the country to the north of the Oxus.

TUS .....a Persian prince, the son of Nozar.

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UKHAST.....a warrior of Turān.

ULĀD.....a landowner and warrior of Māzanderān.

VASTUI.....a supporter of Khosrow Parviz when he is out of favor with his father Hormozd.

VISEH.....a warrior of Turān.

YAJUJ AND MAJUJ.....monstrous beings defeated by Sekandar. Identified with Gog and Magog.

YALĀN-SINEH.....a warrior and companion of Bahrām Chubineh.

YĀNUS.....a younger brother of the Roman emperor captured by Shāpur; he leads an army against Shāpur and is defeated in battle by him.

YAZDEGERD.....the name of three Sāsāniān kings; Yazdegerd the Unjust, the father of Bahrām Gur; Yazdegerd II, the son of Bahrām Gur; and Yazdegerd III, a descendant of Nushin-Ravān and the last Sāsāniān king. Also a scribe at the court of Nushin-Ravān.

ZĀBOL/ZĀBOLESTĀN.....another name for Sistān, the homeland of Sām, Zāl, and Rostam.

ZĀDSHAM.....an ancestor of Afrāsyāb.

ZAHHĀK.....a demon-king brought down by Kāveh and Feraydun.

ZĀL.....also called Zāl-e Zar and Zāl-Dastān, Sām's son, the father of Rostam.

ZANGEH.....a Persian warrior.

ZARASP.....a Persian warrior, the son of Tus.

ZARDHESHT.....the chief priest at the opening of the reign of Hormozd.

ZARMEHR.....an advisor to Nushin-Ravān.

ZARQ.....a village, and also the name of the river, where Yazdegerd was killed.

ZAREH.....a country and sea near North Africa.

ZARIR.....a Persian prince, son of King Goshtāsp.

ZAV.....a Persian king.

ZAVĀREH.....a warrior of Irān, the brother of Rostam.

ZĀVOL/ZĀVOLESTĀN.....another name for Sistān, the homeland of Sām, Zāl, and Rostam.

ZEND-AVESTA.....The Zoroastrian sacred text. Ferdowsi often, anachronistically, refers to it before the advent of Zoroastrianism.

ZHENDEH-RAZM.....a warrior of Turān.

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